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Directions: Fish & Wildlife News - February 21, 1996

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

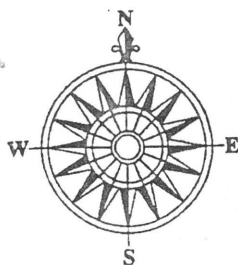
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DIRECTIONS

Fish & Wildlife News

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February 21, 1996

Volume 2, No. 2

Who's Who

David Tillinghast

After wandering much of the United States in quest of employment in the field of fish health, David finally found a home in Maine as the State's Fish Pathologist in October of 1985. David's educational background includes a B.S. from the University of Connecticut, graduation from the U.S.F.W.S. fish health management long course and a M.S. in microbiology from the University of Maine. He has been employed in fish culture and fish health since 1978. He is joined in the lab by Zubaidah Sargent (microbiologist) who was hired in 1987. Zubaidah received her B.S. in microbiology from the University of Maine in 1984. The two of them comprise the fishery division fish health management program. The pathology program is charged with two broad areas of responsibility. The first area requires providing comprehensive fish health inspection and diagnostic services for the nine state fish hatcheries and the wild fish populations of Maine's inland waters. This combines modern techniques in virology, parasitology, bacteriology and erology along with a knowledge of physiology, nutrition, husbandry and bioenergetics to analyse the 4,000 lab samples processed annually; and provides management plans based upon clinical findings. The second area of responsibility focuses on the state's intra and international movement of fish; including issuing fish transfer permits, developing fish health management programs, developing new or refining existing protocols, and advising others on all of these.



Is Fish & Wildlife Experiencing A BUDGET CRISIS???

The answer is: *potentially.*

Fish & Wildlife has the authority to spend all the money it raises from license sales each fiscal year. Currently, our expenditures are just barely below the amount of revenue we receive annually.

In 1994, the Department set into place a three-year license fee increase with the plan to program out the increased revenue receipts for at least one biennium beyond the last year of the increase. Since 1994 was the first year, our plan was to avoid another increase in license fees until 1999.

This goal is to be achieved by not spending all the money that we have the authority to spend in each year. The unspent money is "carried forward" in a special Carrying Account to be used in later years when the amount of money collected during each year will no longer be sufficient to pay for all our employees and programs. For the fiscal year that we are currently in, our goal is to save \$496,000. Next year the goal is \$500,000.

How do we achieve our goals? This achievement will involve participation of all department employees. Some of the things we, as individual employees, can do are:

- * be careful not to waste photocopy paper; paper costs continues to escalate
- * be frugal in using supplies, such as lined paper, notepads, pre-printed forms and stationary
- * turn off lights and office equipment when not in use
- * consolidate trips to hardware store, feed stores, etc. in order to minimize gasoline use
- * take good care of uniforms and department-issued equipment
- * ask vendors for discount rates (especially on high volume items such as heating oil, animal feed, equipment repairs, etc.)

Other measures must be taken at higher levels. Bureau directors and division heads will have to work out ways that each part of the department can reduce expenditures by working smarter.

As of the end of December, we had achieved just over 1/2 of the savings goal for this fiscal year. Now the push is really on to achieve the balance of the savings. Please think about how you might contribute. As employees of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, we are very fortunate that our constituency values our work so highly - so highly that the Constitution of the State was amended to protect our funding. In return, we should try to be as frugal as possible with the money we receive while continuing to supply the outstanding service to the people and resources of the state for which we have become known.

Janet Cotnoir

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DEC 09 1999

Bucky's Bullets

By the time you receive this I will have had a chance to meet with many of you to discuss our report to the Productivity Realization Task Force. On Monday, February 12, we presented the report to a sub group of the Task Force and will be before the entire Task Force on Wednesday, the 21st. Our initial meeting went smoothly but I suspect we will get some tough questions from the entire committee. A number of our recommendations originated with the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Task Force. The following highlights these recommendations:

■ A. Increase Cost Effectiveness

1. Eliminate Personnel Officer, Upgrade Personnel Assistant to Personnel Specialist and re-assign some duties to Bureau Director. This was a Fish and Wildlife suggestion. We believe it can work and have requested that the savings be reallocated to license automation technology.
2. Review Participation in Central Fleet Management. After an in depth review of CFM we believe that they are doing a good job. There are savings if, where possible we purchase out of program vehicles with greatly reduced mileage rates.
3. Outsource Page Design of Fish and Wildlife Magazine and Eliminate Public Relations Specialist. Page design of the magazine and some other layout works will be contracted out and savings to be redirected to new priorities in I & E.
4. Reduce Equipment Expenses for Warden Service. We find that we can utilize the federal property system to acquire materials, equipment and supplies and save considerable dollars. GSA may provide additional opportunities.
5. Provide Better Use of Department Aircraft. By combining resource management surveys and inventories with Warden Service surveillance activities, we will save some \$40,000 a year. In the past these surveys have been contracted to private companies.
6. Develop Merchandising Program for Department By-Products. A trial this past year indicated that there is a demand for IF&W materials. We plan to use outside vendors to market a variety of products using Department logo etc.

■ B. Improve Technology

1. Automate Licensing and Registration Functions. This is our major technology initiative. We plan to be point-of-sale in 1998 for licenses and have registrations on line shortly thereafter.
2. Develop A Simplified License Form For All Licenses in 1998. Once we are point-of-sale we can consolidate most of our licenses on to one or two forms thus greatly reducing printing costs.
3. Support a 5 Million Dollar Bond Issue to Improve and Expand Fish Production Capability. Using new technology we should be able to expand production by 20% while upgrading many of our facilities.
4. Introduce Computer Technology. Through savings achieved in this plan, as well as aid from central administration, we plan to computerize much of the Department in the next 2 years.

■ C. Improve Organizational Structure.

1. Development of Clerical Pool. Most personnel savings achieved through this plan will be redirected to a clerical pool or information center. The former will be cross trained for clerical and data entry and should eliminate much of our need for temporary help.
2. Develop a Safety and Recreation Division. This is a new Division incorporating hunter/trapper education, boat/ATV/snowmobile safety, Coast Guard boating office, whitewater safety coordinator, landowner relations, volunteer programs and guides program. The current recreational coordinator position will be eliminated and a new Division Director position created. The Division will be under the Warden Service.
3. Redesign Administration of Whitewater Recreation Program. This program will be in the new Division described above and will consolidate the rafting activities scattered throughout the Department.

■ D. Improve Customer Service.

1. Development of an Information Center. Three people will be transferred into the center and will handle all incoming mail, calls and walk-ins at the Augusta office. After extensive training we believe this group will handle more than 50% of the information requests thus adding greatly to the administrative staff's productive time.
2. Provide Better Information on Fish and Wildlife Resources. This applies to new GIS capabilities and mapping of important habitats for better planning and management of these resources.
3. Redesign the Boat Registration Process. Plans are to no longer file paper copies of registrations, eliminate the month of registration and concentrate on an error reduction program for agents. We are not supporting a 3-year registration at this time.

WHAT'S NEW

McIntosh Promoted

New Gloucester District Warden Dennis McIntosh - a 21-year veteran of the Maine Warden Service - has been promoted to warden sergeant. McIntosh succeeds Warden Sergeant Carroll Goodwin who retires in February.

McIntosh, a native of Lisbon and an Air Force veteran, began his warden career in the Allagash area. He later patrolled the Dover-Foxcroft area and covered the Embden area for 13 years. A member of the Warden Dive Team, McIntosh is a graduate of Unity College and holds a B.S. degree in Natural Resource Management. His is a three-time recipient of the Exemplary Service Award and a Division Award.

In announcing McIntosh's promotion, Deputy Chief Warden Maj. Dan Tourtelotte, said that "Given the unusually high number of younger wardens in the service, Dennis will provide the experience and knowledge we need to lead our less experienced wardens. We're very pleased to have him in a leadership role in Division A."

Sgt. McIntosh will head up Section 2 in Division A with headquarters in Gray. Married with 4 children, he and his wife Carmen will continue to reside in New Gloucester.

Frost Promoted

Frank O. Frost has assumed the duties of Assistant Regional Fisheries Biologist at the Fish River Lakes Region in Ashland. Initially hired in April, Frost spent the summer as a fisheries biologist in the Sebago Lake Region prior to transferring to Aroostook County.

A native of Caribou, Frank is a 1991 graduate of the University of Maine having earned a BS degree in Wildlife Management. He has attended the University of Idaho and will receive his MS degree in Fishery Resources in 1996.

Frank and his wife, Stacey, live in Caribou and are recent parents of a new son, Matthew.

Changes in Fisheries

During the past year, a number changes have taken place in the Fisheries Division. Among them:

- John Boland promoted to Regional Fishery Biologist in Gray.
- David Boucher transferred to Strong as Assistant Regional Biologist.
- James Lucas transferred to Sidney as Assistant Regional Biologist
- Francis Brautigam hired as Assistant Regional Biologist in Gray.

Dugas Honored

Game Warden Investigator Phil Dugas of Embden was given special recognition recently by the Somerset County Sheriff's Department. Warden Dugas was presented with the Somerset County Sheriff's Award for 1995. The award was presented to Warden Dugas during a ceremony by Sheriff Barry A. DeLong.

In an accompanying letter to Col. Parker Tripp, Chief of the Maine Warden Service, DeLong wrote that Warden Dugas had made special efforts to make working conditions amiable between the two branches of law enforcement. The letter reads in part: "Dugas has shared routine information with our deputies which has helped in the continuation of investigations." The Gorham native was also singled out for "his friendliness and his professionalism."

Warden Dugas holds the Meritorious Service Award. He is a 13-year veteran of the Maine Warden Service.



Bucky's Bullets cont'd

E. Coordination With Other Departments.

1. Streamlined Warehouse Operation. Using computerization, outsourcing some items and possibly combining with DOC and DMR, we can achieve considerable savings.
2. Reduce Search and Rescue Training Costs. Maine Emergency Management Agency will now cover some of the costs of Search and Rescue training by state agencies.

F. Improve Management of Fish and Wildlife Through Partnerships.

1. Improve Performance through Volunteerism. We hope to hire a full-time volunteer coordinator and develop volunteer programs throughout the Department.
2. Expand Concept of Adoption Program. Recently we completed an adoption of all hatcheries. We now want to expand this to all field facilities.

G. Enhance Maine's Economy.

1. Develop and Implement an Interagency Plan for Promoting Maine, Its Natural Resources and Their Use. This one is a little different but has tremendous potential for Maine and its economy. Using performance budgeting we propose to join with several other departments (DOC, DMR, DECD, DOT etc.) to actively promote our natural resources and appropriate economic initiatives (eg Ecotourism, Watchable Wildlife etc.)

I hope you can appreciate the significance of these moves. I firmly believe they will make us a better organization, opening some new doors, improving technology and providing an organizational structure to better deal with changing needs.

MORE WHAT'S NEW

Update of Proposed Listing of Atlantic Salmon under the Endangered Species Act.

In response to the listing by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service of the Atlantic salmon populations in seven Maine rivers as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, Governor King, by executive order on October 20, 1995, created the Maine Atlantic Salmon Task Force. Commissioner Owen is Chairman of the Task Force, which is composed of the following additional representatives: Commissioner of Marine Resources, Commissioner of Agriculture, the State Forester, representatives of private recreational fisheries interests and Native American Sustenance fishers, as well as representatives of the agriculture, aquaculture, paper and forestry sectors.

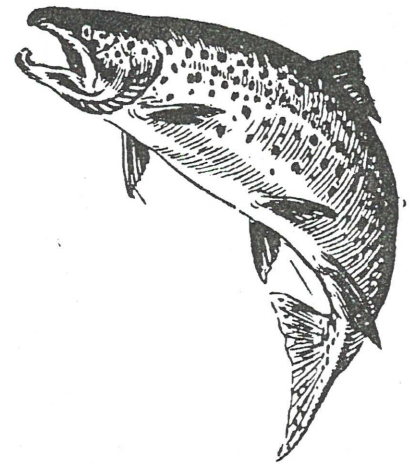
The Task Force was charged with the following: (1) advising the Governor on the appropriate response to the proposed listing of Atlantic salmon in the Dennys, East Machias, Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus, Ducktrap and Sheepscot rivers, (2) the development of a Conservation Plan to address preservation of salmon and their habitat on these rivers, and (3) advising the Governor on the appropriate response to the federal request for comments on

whether any native, naturally reproducing populations of Atlantic salmon remain on the Penobscot, Kennebec, and St. Croix rivers and Tunk Stream.

Commissioner Owen appointed representatives to six technical working groups, formed to advise the Task Force in its work. The six Technical Working Groups are; Genetics, Forestry, Agriculture, Recreational Fishing, Aquaculture and Status of the Penobscot, Kennebec, St. Croix and Tunk Stream stocks. Based upon the preliminary reports from the six technical groups and other information, the Governor responded to the two Federal Services in a 16-page letter dated December 27, 1995. In his response the Governor stated that "the State of Maine is strongly opposed to the proposed threatened species listing on the seven rivers on the grounds that the stocks of the seven rivers do not meet the criteria for listing under the Act and that listing would be counter-productive to the superior protection afforded the species under the existing Maine regulatory mechanism, as enhanced by a voluntary public/private partnership to conserve and restore salmon runs."

As an alternative to listing, the Governor requested that the Services enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the State of Maine in order to implement the Conservation Plan now being developed by the Maine Atlantic Salmon Task Force. The Task Force is expected to have a draft Conservation Plan available for public review and comment by July 1st of this year. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have notified the State of Maine that should the Federal government continue to pursue the listing process, the State Conservation Plan would become a major portion of that effort.

Ed Baum



GAME RECIPES NEEDED

"MAINE WAY" Cook Book to be Reprinted

After receiving many inquiries regarding availability of the Maine Way cook book, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife which previously promoted the publication, is considering publication of an updated version of this little cook book.

We are looking for new relatively uncomplicated ways of preparing wild game and fish. We especially need recipes for moose, turkey, quail, goose and fish. The object of the cook book was to make use of common kitchen supplies, so as to encourage use of this precious resource.

Anyone interested in contributing a recipe(s) for the 1996 Main Way Cook Book, to be published this summer should send their favorite wild game recipe(s) to IF&W, I&E Div., c/o Charles Mann, 284 State St., 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333.

Please include any helpful hints or tips regarding preparation, as well as your name and address and phone number, so that if any questions arise concerning the recipe, we can contact you.

All recipes must be received by April 1, 1996.

FIELD NOTES

WARDEN SERVICE DIVISION C

Game Wardens in Division "C", which is comprised of Hancock and Washington Counties, have been very busy during this portion of the fall hunting season.

A training session for Wardens in Division C in waterfowl identification and enforcement was held at the Penobscot County Conservation Association Clubhouse in Brewer prior to the opening of the waterfowl season. A special enforcement effort was placed on waterfowl regulations this year and many people were cited for a variety of waterfowl hunting violations. Wardens Jeff Lewis of Ellsworth and Mike Joy of Franklin checked a hunting party of three that had committed nine violations, including hunting ducks out of season, hunting ducks under power and duck stamp violations.

Wardens have received numerous calls from concerned citizens of illegal hunting, including night hunting, hunting out of season and exceeding the bag limit on game, particularly deer. Many of these calls have come through Operation Game Thief. Since the end of the first week of the regular firearms season on deer, Wardens in the Division have arrested twenty persons for night hunting. The first two were arrested while night hunting on foot in Dixmont on September 2nd by Wardens Durward Humphrey and Kevin Adam. After the arrest, Warden Debbie Palman went to the scene of the crime with her canine Rica and located a dead deer that had been killed that night and recovered a bullet from the deer.

Wardens have noticed a tremendous increase in the illegal use of bait while hunting deer. The most common bait used is a pile of apples. On the opening day of the deer season Wardens Ralph Hosford of Penobscot and Phil Richter of Lamoine were watching some tree stands before daylight that were illegally baited and observed four men bait the stands with piles of apples, climb up into the stands and then take off their required fluorescent clothing. The four-some received summonses to court for the violations.

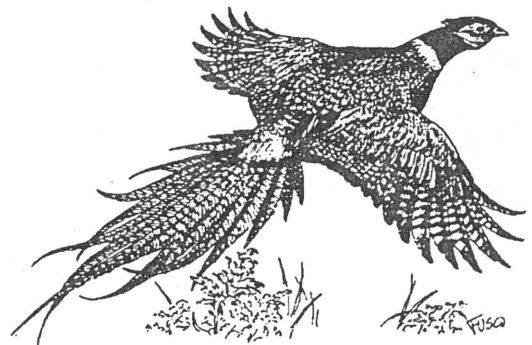
While checking a pile of apples that had obviously been placed under a tree to bait deer one night in early October, Sergeant Doug Tibbetts of Corinna and Warden Kevin Adam of Dexter found themselves in a dangerous situation with a bow hunter. This was not your typical bow hunter. This violator had an aim point scope mounted to his compound bow that emitted a red dot on the target that he was aiming for. It was quite dark and the two Wardens did not use their flashlights while walking into the stand, so as to remain concealed and not allow the violator enough time to make an escape. The illegal bow hunter was first observed when a red dot appeared on the chest of Sergeant Tibbetts. The Wardens quickly identified themselves and arrested the man for night hunting. This was the second person that Sgt. Tibbetts has arrested for night hunting this year that was using archery equipment to kill a deer.

Warden Detective Gary Sargent, as well as several other Wardens in the Division, have written and executed many search warrants around the Division and have recovered illegal deer meat and moose meat. As a result, many violators have been charged with illegal possession of deer or moose.

On October 5th, Wardens Debbie Palman and Kevin Adam, along with Debbie's canine, Rica, were called to assist police in Carmel after a female jogger had been attacked in the dark and had fortunately escaped her attacker. The suspect had run off through the woods. A canine was requested for assistance and Debbie, Rica and Kevin responded. Because of the Wardens ability to follow tracks, as well as Rica's keen nose, the assailant was eventually tracked back to a nearby residence. With the help of the two Wardens investigative skills, the suspect was arrested by the police.

On September 18th, Wardens Joe McBrine and Joe Gardner, both from the Dennysville area, came upon a vehicle parked along a woods road in Cutler. Upon investigation, they noticed a set of foot prints in the hard-packed gravel road. Following the track into the woods for some ways, they eventually came upon an individual. He noticed the two Wardens at about the same time the two Wardens noticed him. The man quickly tried to run away but was overtaken by the Wardens and so stopped and was questioned as to where he had run. The man gave a suspicious reply so the Wardens continued to look around. Soon the Wardens came upon another man who was carrying, concealed in his coat, a variety of items not usually carried around while walking in the woods. Upon questioning, the individual eventually confessed to burglarizing a nearby home. He was arrested along with the first man the Wardens had encountered earlier. The burglars had concealed their vehicle in the woods on the dirt road and had walked through the woods to the back of the house. The two eventually confessed to many other burglaries in the Washington County area.

Several people, both hunters and non hunters alike, who became lost or stranded in the woods of Division C were located and rescued by Wardens. With no exceptions, they were all quite happy to meet a Maine Game Warden in the woods, even in the dark of night.



MORE FIELD NOTES

Region B

A project to evaluate what role fishing exploitation plays on the Swan Lake togue population was initiated in 1993. Additionally, we collected information regarding the spawning characteristics of the togue population.

Region B personal fished oneida trapnets during the fall 1993, 1994, and 1995. A total of 213 lake trout have been jaw tagged during the past 3 years.

During this latest trapnet operation we recaptured 7 previously tagged togue, four were tagged in 1993 and 3 were tagged in 1994. Little or no growth was demonstrated by these 7 fish since they were originally tagged.

To date, anglers have reported information on 10 of the 165 jaw tagged togue available to anglers during the past 2 years. The majority (9) of these were harvested during ice fishing seasons 94-95. Open water anglers have reported catching 2 togue 1 released 1994, 1 killed 1995.

The following table represents information collected for the sport fish trapped in 1995 at Swan Lake.

	Togue	Salmon	Brook Trout
Number caught	54	13	4
Average length	26 in.	20.7 in	14.6 in.
Average weight	6.9 lb	4.1 lb	1.4 lb

One of the togue was of particular interest, a hatchery fish 24 years old, stocked in the spring of 1972 (25.3 in, 5.7 lb).

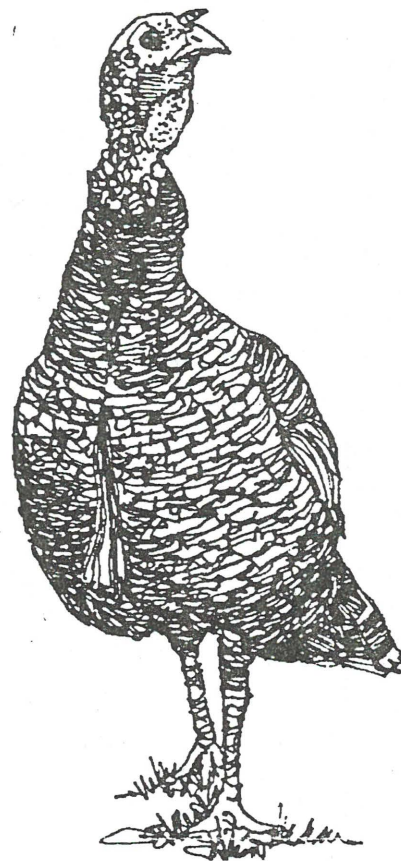
A winter sport fish survey will be conducted on Swan Lake in 1996 to gather addition information on this fishery.

Jim Lucas

1996 Turkey Permits

We received 3,953 turkey applications, 89 of them were from nonresidents. There will be 1,250 permits drawn, 500 for the north zone and 750 for the south zone.

The area open to turkey has been expanded for 1996, two hunting zones have been established. The south zone is the same as the area open last year the the north zone is the new area open to hunting.



Stats Stack

- * Maine's estimated coyote population, according to a recent coyote report being prepared for the state legislature is between 10,000 and 16,000.
- * According to recent figures, about one in every five Maine bear hunters get their critters,
- * Each year close to 90,000 applicants participate in the Maine moose lottery.

Bio Facts

There are more than 1 million separate animal species on earth, and 1,000 or more are added to this list each year. There are more than:

- 800,000 species of insects
- 21,000 species of fish
- 2,500 species of amphibians
- 700 species of reptiles
- 9,000 species of birds and
- 4,500 species of mammals.